United Nations S/2006/928

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 November 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 21 November 2006 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General

On 7 February 2006, the Security Council issued a descriptive index to notes and statements by the President of the Council relating to documentation and procedure (June 1993 to December 2005). The index had been prepared for the purpose of providing greater ease of reference to this material for all States Members of the United Nations and was circulated as the annex to a document of the Council (S/2006/78).

Since the Security Council, through the work carried out in the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, subsequently produced a note by the President of the Council dated 19 July 2006 (S/2006/507) enriching and further developing the content of document S/2006/78, members of the Council hereby request the Secretariat to provide an updated version of the index. The members of the Council consider that the issuance of such an index would benefit new members of the Council and facilitate participation of all States Members of the United Nations in the work of the Council.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Voto-Bernales**
President of the Security Council

06-63394 (E) 291106

United Nations A/61/602–S/2006/929

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 November 2006

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 19
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Letter dated 29 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 29 November 2006, addressed to you by Kemal Gökeri, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, forwarding the letter of Mehmet Ali Talat, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of Mr. Talat's letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-63607 (E) 051206

Annex to the letter dated 29 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith a copy of the letter dated 29 November 2006 addressed to you by Mehmet Ali Talat, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see enclosure).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its enclosure could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Kemal **Gökeri**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

Further to my letter (S/2005/666) dated 12 October 2005 concerning the rising trend of racism, chauvinism and ultra-nationalism among the Greek Cypriots, the fast deteriorating situation and the reflection of this trend in the form of maltreatment of the Turkish Cypriots visiting South Cyprus, has prompted me to bring again to your kind attention the following concerns of the Turkish Cypriot side.

As you would recall, the reply to my previous letter came through the letter (S/2005/722) of the Greek Cypriot representative in New York dated 16 November 2005. Ironically, instead of treating the content of my correspondence seriously and taking necessary measures in preventing racist attitudes in South Cyprus, the said administration has opted to choose to deny the content of my letter and alleged that it contained suspicious and groundless assertions. Since that time, the maltreatment of Turkish Cypriots visiting South Cyprus, which has been increasing in an alarming manner, has unfortunately corroborated the content and main thrust of my letter. We do not witness a day passing without an attack or harassment of the Turkish Cypriots by the Greek Cypriot authorities and civilians. On the contrary, I would also like to remind you again with pleasure that since the inception of the reciprocal crossings, almost no incident against the Greek Cypriots visiting the Turkish Cypriot side has been witnessed.

Some examples of the continuing Greek Cypriot policy of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of the Turkish Cypriots which can be described as the tip of the iceberg are listed below. There exist dozens of other similar cases which are well documented but not included in this letter for reasons of practicality and brevity.

At the outset, it is interesting to note that one of the victims of such attacks has been bi-communal events designed to contribute to the confidence building between the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots. On 18 January 2006, a bi-communal event, Together for Peace, organized at the Melina Mercouri hall by the DISY (Greek Cypriot main opposition party) and the Republican Turkish Party and United Forces (main coalition party of the Turkish Cypriot government) on the Greek side of Nicosia, was first disrupted when a Greek speaking man phoned the Greek Cypriot private television station Sigma asserting that there was a bomb at the venue. The bomb squad arrived on the scene to investigate, but the information turned out to be a hoax. However, it was discovered that thirteen car tires had been slashed and leaflets with written obscenities were also stuck to cars. It is interesting to note that the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Tassos Papadopoulos, condemned this vandalism two days later, only after intense criticism directed from the Greek Cypriot main opposition party DISY. (Greek Cypriot daily, *Cyprus Mail*, 21 January 2006)

On 13 February 2006, again another bi-communal event organized by the Cyprus Literature Union and dedicated to the Turkish Cypriot poetry fell victim to the vandals. This time four cars had their tires slashed, two belonging to two Turkish Cypriots, one to a Greek Cypriot and one to the Bulgarian Embassy. (Greek Cypriot daily, *Cyprus Mail*, 15 February 2006)

On 27 June 2006, Mr. Osman Sarper, a Turkish Cypriot architect was arrested by the Greek Cypriot police while crossing to South Cyprus through the Metehan (Ayios Dhometios) checkpoint for possessing building plans and documents related to land, which was claimed to be formerly owned by the Greek Cypriots. After eight days of detention, Mr. Sarper was brought before the Greek Cypriot Nicosia District Court and despite the medical reports stating that he had some serious heart problems; he was kept in jail for

seven more days. Furthermore, the Greek Cypriot administration refused the medical examination of Mr. Osman Sarper by his Turkish Cypriot doctor from North Cyprus. Deterioration of his health and intensive protests of the family and the Turkish Cypriot non-governmental organizations, forced the Greek Cypriot administration to release Mr. Sarper on bail on 11 July 2006. Here, it should also be noted that the property issue stands at the core of the Cyprus problem and it is one of the core issues to be dealt with within the context of full-fledged negotiations aimed at a comprehensive settlement. No doubt, such attempts are deteriorating further the confidence between the two sides. However, many other Turkish Cypriots are still being detained and harassed by the Greek Cypriot police for the same reason.

A minor but a serious discriminatory treatment that a group of Turkish Cypriots have encountered at a restaurant in Lefkara, South Cyprus, is a further indication of the rising trend of ultra-nationalism among the Greek Cypriots. On 3 September 2006, a group of Turkish Cypriots, who were visiting Lefkara, went to a coffee shop to have a drink. Despite the fact that the waiter of the restaurant, who was also the owner, were serving other customers present there, the Turkish Cypriots waited a long time without being asked what they wanted to have. Moreover, when they asked for a cup of coffee, the owner of the coffee shop refused to serve and told them that *"Turkish Cypriots cannot have coffee here."* (Turkish Cypriot daily, *Kibris*, 5 September 2006 – Greek Cypriot newspaper, *Sunday Mail*, 26 November 2006)

On 11 September 2006, Mr. Murat Kanatlı, a journalist and the editor of the Turkish Cypriot newspaper *Yeniçağ*, an ardent supporter of unification in the island, was subjected to a humiliating search by a Greek Cypriot customs officer while passing to South Cyprus at the Ledra Palace checkpoint. According to an article published at the Greek Cypriot daily *Cyprus Mail* dated 13 September 2006, despite the fact that Mr. Kanatlı showed the customs officer his press card issued by the "Cyprus Journalists' Union", the officer not only continued to search his personal notes but also humiliated him by telling him that he was looking for ecstasy drugs. When Mr. Kanatlı said to the officer he requested to speak to the director, the officer responded by saying if Mr. Kanatlı had a complaint he would be the one he should apply to.

The Turkish daily newspaper *Cumhuriyet* dated 21 September 2006, reported that Mr. Ozan Ceyhun, former member of the European Parliament and the member of the German Social Democratic Party, was assaulted by eight Greek Cypriot youngsters in front of the Hilton Hotel situated at the Greek Cypriot part of Nicosia while traveling in a taxi carrying Turkish Cypriot number plates. Mr. Ceyhun also told the newspaper that apart from attacking the taxi, the perpetrators also spat on the face of the Turkish Cypriot driver. The Turkish Cypriot columnist, Mr. Başaran Düzgün, another well known journalist for his articles favoring the unification of Cyprus, in his article published in the Turkish Cypriot daily *Kibris* dated 22 September 2006, commented that most of the attacks to the Turkish Cypriots by the ultra-nationalist Greek Cypriots occur at the vicinity of the Hilton Hotel and despite the ongoing appeals of the victims, the Greek Cypriot police still refrain from taking the necessary measures in that area.

On 15 November 2006, Ms. Sevgül Uludağ, a well known journalist and researcher, who is writing articles for the rapprochement of the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots and also about missing persons issue in Cyprus, has been physically attacked and verbally insulted by the members of the Greek Cypriot ultra-nationalist group Chrysi Avghi (Golden Dawn), while crossing from the Ledra Palace checkpoint. The same group also damaged the car of Mr. Aziz Ener, another Turkish Cypriot pro-unification journalist, with iron sticks and verbally insulted other Turkish Cypriots passing through the checkpoint. As

a result of these attacks, the crossing through the Ledra Palace checkpoint was temporarily halted. (Turkish Cypriot daily, *Yeniduzen*, 16 November 2006)

Most alarmingly, on 22 November 2006, about 15-20 racist Greek Cypriot youngsters, believed to be members of the Greek Cypriot ultra-nationalist group National Voice of Youth with a Greek Soul (EFEN), all wearing masks and armed with planks of wood, entered the grounds of the English School (situated at the Greek Cypriot side of Nicosia) during recess, located a group of Turkish Cypriot students and beat them up. The President of the English School Union said that this would not have happened if some newspapers (Greek Cypriot) had not provoked a minor incident occurred before between a Turkish Cypriot student and a Greek Cypriot student from the same school regarding wearing religious symbols. (All the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot newspapers dated 22 and 23 November 2006 covered the attack intensively, most of them in their first pages). In this context, I would like to stress that after all these attacks perpetrated by the members of the Greek Cypriot ultra-nationalist groups, it is also hard to understand why the Greek Cypriot leadership is still refraining to take preventive measures towards this racist establishments.

Although the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Tassos Papadopoulos was compelled to condemn the attack, describe it as a criminal act and state that religious criteria had never been the reason or cause for conflict between the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots, he tried to conceal the organized nature of this incident by describing the attackers merely as irresponsible troublemakers. However, the Stop the War Coalition – Cyprus, a bi-communal platform including the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots, has described the incident at the English School as *"an organized attack by fascists against Turkish Cypriots."* (Greek Cypriot newspaper, *Sunday Mail*, 26 November 2006)

Furthermore, the statement which Mr. Papadopoulos had made during the opening ceremony of a monument in the memory of Greek Cypriot soldiers who lost their lives during the events in 1974 compels us to question his sincerity in his condemnation of the incident at the British School. According to the Greek Cypriot daily *Politis* dated 20 November 2006, during his speech at the ceremony, Papadopoulos said and I quote, *"The messages of heroism for those who lost their lives for their homeland shall not be silenced by the voices of the imams. (As Papadopoulos was delivering his speech, ezan could be heard from a mosque in the vicinity)."* It is a well known and undeniable fact in social sciences that prejudices against any religion often manifests itself in general negative attitudes, such as violence, harassment, discrimination and stereotyping in the societies. Such irresponsible and provocative statements given by the Greek Cypriot leadership would not only deteriorate the already fragile situation but would also cause a serious blow to the ongoing efforts of the UN to facilitate a comprehensive solution of the Cyprus problem. In this context, the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) shadow report published in 2005, entitled *Racism in Cyprus*, has made serious warnings to the Greek Cypriot administration and stated that; *"Islamophobia has always been present in Cyprus, to a lesser extent though, due to the Cyprus problem. However, it has now taken larger dimensions as anyone of Muslim religion is not only presumed to be a potential collaborator to Turkey but also a potential terrorist. This is shown by the Police's eagerness to arrest Muslim students and deport them on suspicion of membership to terrorist organizations without any particular examination of their case...."*

Another absurd example showing the extent of the ultra-nationalist hysteria among the Greek Cypriots is related to tomatoes brought into South Cyprus from the Turkish Cypriot side. Although the EU Commission declared in its report [COM(2006)551] dated 25 September 2006 that tomatoes being traded through the Green Line Regulation were not originated from Turkey, the Greek Cypriot daily *Machi*, an ultra-nationalist newspaper, kept

abusing the issue by insisting that the tomatoes produced in Turkey were coming to South Cyprus through North and seriously endangering the health of the Greek Cypriots. Furthermore, the Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment of the Greek Cypriot administration, Mr. Fotis Fotiou, even ordered the officers of his Ministry to check all the harbors and markets for Turkish tomatoes. (Greek Cypriot daily, *Phileleftheros*, dated 26 November 2006)

I am sure you will also agree with me that education is one of the most important aspects in shaping individuals, social institutions and society itself. In this context, the Turkish Cypriot side has taken a number of concrete steps designed to contribute to confidence building and mutual trust between the two sides in the island. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, the Turkish Cypriot side has unilaterally implemented a project for re-writing of history textbooks in order to eliminate enmity and hatred between the two peoples. However, it is disturbing and discouraging to observe the total lack of movement of the Greek Cypriot side on the issue, particularly in the light of extent of the nationalistic rhetoric against the Turkish Cypriot people contained in the textbooks. A well known Greek Cypriot scholar on education, Mr. Panayiotis Persianis, in his study entitled *Education in Cyprus in the Light of EU Accession* (published in Nicosia, 1996) noted that history of the Greek Cypriot education is a strong case of *"using education for political ends."* This analysis explains the reluctance of the Greek Cypriot leadership for removing the anti-Turkish nationalistic language from the textbooks.

Surveys carried out among the Greek Cypriot students by reliable Greek Cypriot sources clearly reveal how effective the education is in shaping the attitudes of the whole society in South Cyprus towards racist and ultra-nationalistic attitudes. Therefore, I deem it necessary to bring to your kind attention some of these studies, all of which were carried out by the Greek Cypriots.

A survey entitled "Racism and Xenophobia" that has been carried out among the Greek Cypriot high school students in South Cyprus revealed that 46.5% of the student population has racist views, with 14% admitting to be racist. According to the same study majority of the students believe that the Greek race and Orthodox sect of Christianity are the best in the world and 75.4% of the students would oppose the building of a mosque in their neighborhood. Furthermore, 86.5% of the Greek Cypriot children deny job opportunities to Turkish Cypriots. (Greek Cypriot daily, *Politis*, 6 March 2005)

A study conducted by the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation of the Greek Cypriot administration among the public also revealed that 63% of Greek Cypriots within the age group of 18 – 24 are against the idea of living with Turkish Cypriots. (Greek Cypriot Daily, *Cyprus Mail*, 5 April 2006). This result is a clear confirmation of the anti-Turkish Cypriot feelings among the Greek Cypriot youth. A political analyst from South Cyprus, Mr. Louis Igoumenides had also stated in the same issue of the newspaper that *"It is unfortunately very apparent that schools on the island do promote nationalism to pupils from a very young age prompting young people nowadays to resent anyone that is not Greek or Christian"*.

Unfortunately, this anti-Turkish Cypriot feeling is not only confined among the Greek Cypriot youth. Another study that has been conducted by *Phileleftheros* newspaper among 11-12 year-old children in an elementary school to determine the views of the Greek Cypriot children concerning the Turkish Cypriots has shown parallel results. The newspaper stated that the results of the study indicated that the children are skeptical towards Turkish Cypriots; they define the Turkish Cypriots as bad and undesirable

outsiders and also blame them for the Cyprus problem. The results of the study also showed that the said children do not know much regarding the Turkish Cypriots and 62% of them said that when they see a Turkish Cypriot for the first time they get surprised since the image of a Turkish Cypriot in their mind is totally different. The children were also asked what they knew about Turkish Cypriots and what they felt towards them. 36% of the children expressed negative opinions concerning the Turkish Cypriots and defined them as "generally bad, poor, mean, filthy/sinful". The children also expressed that the Turkish Cypriots are ugly and of dark complexion, and the majority of the children stated that they hate the Turkish Cypriots. (Greek Cypriot daily, *Philelefttheros*, 30 July 2006)

In the letter of the Greek Cypriot representative in New York, dated 16 November 2005, it is also claimed that the Greek Cypriot administration is fully respecting the promotion and the protection of human rights in the island. However, the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) in its shadow report published in 2005 entitled *Racism in Cyprus* also states that *"Cyprus (Greek Cypriot administration) has very high scores on ratification of international human rights instruments, including antidiscrimination instruments and with regard to transposition Directives. The major problem however, is also the substance of the issue, is their effective implementation."* Moreover, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) Third report on Cyprus adopted on 16 December 2005 has made a noteworthy advice to the Greek Cypriot administration and I quote: *"ECRI recommends that the Cypriot (Greek) authorities pay attention and address problems of racism and racial discrimination facing Turkish Cypriot citizens."* In the light of these serious warnings from two human rights institutions, the Greek Cypriot administration is not convincing when it depicts such offences as "minor" and "isolated" incidents and claims that it is respecting human rights.

As the incidents and the studies given above clearly indicate, the Greek Cypriot governmental policies are the main reason behind the rising trend of racism, xenophobia, ultra-nationalism and unfortunately Islamophobia in South Cyprus. In this respect, Mr. Nicos Trimiklionitis, the Director of the Cyprus Labor Institute, INEK-PEO and Director for the National Focal Point, (RAXEN), in his paper published in *The Cyprus Review* (Vol.15, Fall 2004 edition) described the governmental policies of the Greek Cypriot administration as *"institutional racism, underlying the whole legal and administration system."*

In view of the foregoing, I call on all the international community in general and the UN in particular to take urgent action for the abolition of all forms of racial and religious discrimination, cruel and inhuman treatment of the Turkish Cypriots, originating from the decades-old policies of the Greek Cypriot administration which seek to dominate the island at the expense of the Turkish Cypriot people.

The above-mentioned events covering the period between January 2006 - November 2006 are by no means exhaustive. I will continue to inform Your Excellency regularly on the account of the racist oriented events carried out in Southern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet Ali **Talat**
President

United Nations S/2006/930

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 December 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 30 November 2006 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

Over the past 20 years, the Lord's Resistance Army's (LRA) insurgency has caused the death and abduction of thousands of civilians, displaced more than 1.5 million people in northern Uganda and severely disrupted humanitarian operations in southern Sudan. Its presence and activities in the north-eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo also represent a serious security threat for the civilian population and the region.

I believe that the regional dimension of the LRA activities, which is receiving increasing international attention, requires a comprehensive and sustained approach pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1653 (2006) and 1663 (2006), which, inter alia, requested that I provide recommendations on how United Nations agencies and missions in the Great Lakes region could more effectively address the problem of LRA. To that end, I have decided to offer my good offices to the countries of the region and, following consultations with the Government of Uganda and other Governments in the region, to appoint Joaquim Chissano, former President of Mozambique, as my Special Envoy for the LRA-affected areas.

In carrying out my good offices initiative, the Special Envoy will facilitate the search for a comprehensive political solution to address the root causes of the conflict in northern Uganda and the implications of the LRA activities in the region, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, southern Sudan and northern Uganda. He will help develop a cohesive and forward-looking policy approach among all external actors. Taking into account the independent nature of the judiciary process, my Special Envoy will also liaise with the International Criminal Court, United Nations missions in the Great Lakes region and regional actors concerned on matters pertaining to the indicted LRA leaders.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

06-63904 (E) 011206

United Nations S/2006/931

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 December 2006

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus

I. Introduction

1. The present report on the United Nations operation in Cyprus covers developments from 18 May to 27 November 2006 and brings up to date the record of activities carried out by the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) pursuant to Security Council resolution 186 (1964) and subsequent Council resolutions, most recently resolution 1687 (2006).

2. As at 15 November, the strength of the military component stood at 853 all ranks and the strength of the police component stood at 60 (see annex).

II. Mission of good offices and other developments

3. On 15 June, the Security Council adopted resolution 1687 (2006), in which, inter alia, it expressed regret that the gap between words and deeds remained too great for me to resume fully my mission of good offices and urged progress towards the resumption of negotiations for a comprehensive settlement.

4. Since my last report, dated 23 May 2006 (S/2006/315), my Special Representative in Cyprus, Michael Møller, has continued to engage with the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders and their representatives. His efforts have focused on assisting them to re-engage in the implementation of their agreements and undertakings aimed at the resumption of negotiations leading to a comprehensive settlement.

5. Early in July, at my request, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Ibrahim Gambari, undertook an overview mission to the region. In Turkey and Greece, he met with the respective Foreign Ministers and senior Foreign Ministry officials. In Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot leader, Tassos Papadopoulos and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mehmet Ali Talat met, for the first time, just prior to Mr. Gambari's visit, on the occasion of the installation of the third member of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus.

6. On 8 July, the Greek Cypriot leader and the Turkish Cypriot leader met in the presence of the Under-Secretary-General, where they agreed on and signed a set of principles and decisions. In the course of that meeting, I had an opportunity to talk to both of them and to encourage them to live up to the expectations of the

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international community. By their agreement, they recognized that the status quo was unacceptable and that a comprehensive settlement was both desirable and possible. They agreed to begin immediately a two-track process involving discussion by technical committees of issues affecting the day-to-day life of the people and, concurrently, consideration by working groups of substantive issues, both of which would contribute to a comprehensive settlement. They also committed themselves to ensuring that the right atmosphere prevailed for this process to be successful, including by ending mutual recriminations (see S/2006/572, annexes I and II).

7. On 29 August, the Security Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General on the outcome of his mission. Following the briefing, the President of the Security Council read a statement to the press, in which the members of the Council expressed support for my continued efforts aimed at reaching a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem, welcomed the 8 July agreement reached during the Under-Secretary-General's mission to the region and called for full implementation of the 8 July agreement without further delay.

8. Since then, my Special Representative has been engaged in intensive discussions with both sides aimed at implementing the 8 July agreement. On 19 September, I met with Mr. Papadopoulos in New York and discussed the Cyprus problem, including issues relating to the implementation of the 8 July agreement. In the light of the differences that emerged between the two sides regarding the implementation of the agreement, the Under-Secretary-General wrote to the two leaders on 15 November suggesting a way forward.

9. Both leaders replied on 18 November, formally accepting the Under-Secretary-General's suggestions. The stage is therefore now set for positive forward movement, and I urge both sides to show the necessary goodwill and determination to overcome their apparent deep mutual distrust and suspicion of each other's true motives. I also hope that a stop will be put to the so-called blame game that has been carried out relentlessly and unhelpfully by officials and the press of both sides, contravening the letter and the spirit of the 8 July agreement.

10. On 20 November, I met with Mr. Talat in Geneva. He reiterated the commitment of the Turkish Cypriot side to a comprehensive settlement under the auspices of the United Nations. I welcomed his positive response to the Under-Secretary-General's suggestions and urged him to move forward without delay on the implementation of the 8 July agreement. Mr. Talat promised to do his utmost in that connection. He also reiterated the need to end the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots. I responded that I continued to stand by my report of 28 May 2004 to the Security Council (S/2004/437), in which I indicated that the isolation of the north must be lifted.

11. Under the terms of the 8 July agreement, the two leaders have recognized that the status quo is unacceptable and that a comprehensive settlement is both desirable and possible. Their commitment to achieving such a settlement now needs to be demonstrated. I have made it clear to both of them that what is important is not a declaration of intent but action from both sides to narrow the gap between words and action and indicate to me and my successor that they are ready to resume and move ahead in earnest with talks aimed at settling the Cyprus issue. This will require compromise and political will. I encourage the two leaders to move ahead on

the implementation of the 8 July agreement now that they have agreed to the suggestions put forward by the Under-Secretary-General.

12. Other efforts undertaken by the international community in the course of the reporting period include an initiative of the Finnish Presidency of the European Union which, however, was not successful. Insofar as such initiatives are acceptable to all concerned and contribute to the overall goal of a comprehensive settlement, they may have a catalytic effect and efforts in this regard should be welcomed.

13. During the reporting period, there has been a disturbing trend that impinges on the ability of organizations and individuals to carry out activities and projects designed to contribute to bi-communal contacts and cooperation throughout the island. As a result, the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has been hampered in its ability to support and implement projects that benefit both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in areas of common concern. This is a regrettable development. Without a strong contribution from civic organizations and individuals, it is hard to imagine a genuine reconciliation in Cyprus. Their efforts need to be nurtured and obstacles to them removed.

III. Activities of the Force

A. Prevention of a recurrence of fighting and maintenance of the military status quo

14. The military and security situation along the ceasefire lines remained generally stable. Overall, the opposing forces showed cooperation and exercised restraint. The number of violations and other incidents decreased by 30 per cent from the same period in 2005, from 468 to 330. Those violations, which were mostly minor in nature, included lack of discipline, stone-throwing and verbal abuse, improvements to observation posts, filming of the buffer zone, cocking of weapons and pointing them at United Nations forces and incursions into the buffer zone. The reduction in violations and incidents could be attributed to the effectiveness of the mobile concept of operations in UNFICYP.

15. Despite the overall reduction of incidents, the mandate of UNFICYP continued to be challenged by both opposing forces. Significant violations by the National Guard included overmanning of an observation post and conducting a military exercise at platoon strength with mortars behind one of their observation posts. In addition, 82 members of the National Guard, including an armed element, attended a funeral inside the buffer zone, and 7 uniformed National Guard personnel attended a church service in the buffer zone. The Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces manned the Ledra Street bridge. A Turkish Cypriot police element continued to man an unauthorized checkpoint, and the Turkish Forces continued to patrol the vicinity of the Laroujina pocket. The nearby Turkish Forces observation post is regularly overmanned despite frequent protests by UNFICYP. Attempts to restore the status quo in the area have not progressed any further. In response, UNFICYP employed standing patrols and, on occasion, reoccupied some of its static observation towers. Such operations, which call for large numbers of personnel, are sustainable in the short term with the current force and confirm the requirement to maintain flexibility and the existing force levels for the foreseeable future.

16. As in 2005, the National Guard held its annual military exercise, "Nikiforos", from 10 to 15 October with the participation of the General Staffs from Greece. The Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces held their military exercise, "Toros II", from 7 to 9 November. I should like to reiterate my appeal to both sides to refrain from holding those exercises.

17. The violation by the Turkish Forces of the military status quo in Strovilia persisted, with an increased number of soldiers manning that position. There has been no change in control by Turkish Forces over limited access of UNFICYP to and freedom of its movement within the fenced area of Varosha. The United Nations continues to hold the Government of Turkey responsible for the status quo in Varosha.

18. The impasse continued over the dismantling of a National Guard observation post in the vicinity of Dherinia and of a corresponding construction by the Turkish Forces referred to in my report of May 2006 (S/2006/315, para. 11). The National Guard informed UNFICYP it would dismantle its position provided that work began simultaneously to remove the position that the Turkish Forces had constructed in response. The Turkish Forces stated in turn that they would remove their position once the dismantling of the National Guard position had been completed. The issue is the subject of ongoing discussions between UNFICYP and the opposing forces.

19. The efforts of UNFICYP to achieve demilitarization of the ceasefire lines have stalled. In June, UNFICYP invited the National Guard and the Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces to submit proposals for unmanning/deconfrontation measures. Throughout the summer, the opposing forces expressed support for the suggestion of UNFICYP and agreed to submit a list of deconfrontation measures, but so far no proposals have been received. UNFICYP will continue its efforts on that issue.

20. At the onset of the crisis in Lebanon, UNFICYP assisted in moving United Nations personnel and their dependants from Lebanon and supported United Nations humanitarian and other activities in the region. In total, the evacuation operations brought nearly 2,000 people to Cyprus. UNFICYP initially dispatched 30 days worth of supplies to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and coordinated the regular resupply of fuel, water and medical supplies. A rear headquarters and additional aviation resources for UNIFIL were located in the United Nations Protected Area in Nicosia. Helicopter operations to Lebanon were mounted from Nicosia throughout August and continued from Larnaca until early October. Office facilities and secure storage facilities were provided to personnel of the International Independent Investigation Commission (established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1595 (2005)), which relocated to Cyprus.

B. Demining activity in the buffer zone

21. The Mine Action Centre has to date cleared 1,617,462 square metres of land and disposed of 2,364 landmines from the buffer zone since the start of the programme in November 2004. During the reporting period 12 of the 13 Turkish Forces minefields were cleared, and it is expected that the last will be completed by the end of November 2006. The Mine Action Project has been supported by funds from the European Union.

22. Since February, UNFICYP had been conducting negotiations with the Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces to allow for the clearance of additional minefields. In August 2006, both Forces made a commitment in writing to enter into negotiations to extend existing demining guidelines to include all remaining minefields in the buffer zone laid by the Turkish Forces. Discussions to make progress on this important issue continued between UNFICYP and the Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces.

C. Restoration of normal conditions and humanitarian functions

23. UNFICYP continued to work with its United Nations partners and local actors to facilitate projects of common benefit for Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots in and outside the buffer zone and to promote confidence-building measures between them.

24. Cypriots on both sides of the buffer zone continued to use the crossing points for various activities, including trade, religious and bi-communal events, without major incidents. UNFICYP has recorded approximately 12 million crossings since the opening of the crossing points in April 2003. That figure does not include crossings in Pergamos since 1 September, when the Turkish Cypriot side discontinued sharing statistics on the movement of people at that crossing. UNFICYP is following up this matter with the Turkish Cypriot authorities. Goods worth approximately £C 958,000 (about $2 million) crossed the Green Line from the north to the south of the buffer zone, and goods worth approximately £C 358,000 (about $700,000) crossed from south to north. Although there has been a relatively steady flow of persons and goods since the opening of the crossing points and the entry into force of the Green Line Regulation, the potential of those interactions and trade among the people as a catalytic element towards the reunification of the island has yet to be seized.

25. Since the amendment of the Green Line Regulation in August 2005 to include the provision of three additional crossing points, agreement has not been reached on the modalities of opening them. Consultations regarding the opening of the Ledra Street crossing point in Nicosia remain pending.

26. UNFICYP facilitated 10 bi-communal events with the participation of approximately 500 people from both sides. Those events were held in the buffer zone, at the Ledra Palace Hotel, which continues to be viewed by both sides as an essential, neutral venue for hosting bi-communal activities. It is noteworthy that since the opening of the crossing points in 2003, there has been a decrease in the number of events at the Ledra Palace as other venues have become available. Regular monthly meetings between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political party leaders continued to be held at the Ledra Palace Hotel under the auspices of the Embassy of Slovakia.

27. UNFICYP continued its discussions with the Greek Cypriot side, initiated in March 2005, regarding the establishment of a Turkish language primary school in Limassol, which is not yet operational. At their request, UNFICYP met with the Turkish Cypriot Teachers' Trade Union on that subject and other issues related to the education of Turkish Cypriot schoolchildren in the south, including curricula and textbooks. The formal proceedings of the lawsuit filed by the Turkish Cypriot Teachers' Trade Union with the Supreme Court to guarantee Turkish Cypriots the

right to an education in their mother tongue, mentioned in my previous report (S/2006/315, para. 20), began on 5 May and have been adjourned several times, most recently on 10 November. A new trial date has been set for 6 February 2007. UNFICYP continued to follow up developments on that issue with the Greek Cypriot side, pending the outcome of the judicial proceedings. UNFICYP facilitated the assignment of four additional teachers for the Greek Cypriot secondary school in Rizokarpaso in the north for the school year beginning in September 2006.

28. During the reporting period, UNFICYP conducted 62 humanitarian convoys and humanitarian visits in support of the 389 Greek Cypriots and 145 Maronites living in the north. UNFICYP continued to assist Turkish Cypriots living in the south in obtaining identity documents, housing, welfare services, medical care, employment and education. UNFICYP also assisted in arranging six visits by Greek Cypriots and Maronites and a commemorative event by Turkish Cypriots inside and outside the buffer zone. On 10 and 11 June, in the northern part of the island, 800 Greek Cypriots attended services at Saint Barnabas Church near Famagusta, and on 23 July, for the first time since 1974, 300 Maronites visited the Prophet Elias Monastery in the village of Saint Marina. On 1 and 2 September, 900 Greek Cypriots attended the annual religious services at Saint Mamas Church in Morphou. On 8 August, 429 Turkish Cypriots travelled for an annual visit to Kokkina in the western part of the island. In the buffer zone, 773 Greek Cypriots visited Saint Marina Church in Dherynia on 17 July, and approximately 70 Greek Cypriots attended services at Ayios Neophytos Church in Troulli on 27 September.

29. Since the lifting in 2003 of the restrictions on movement across the ceasefire lines, there has been an increasing number of civilians farming and/or an increase in the construction of buildings in the buffer zone, which is in contravention of the procedures established by UNFICYP to safeguard the stability of and security within the buffer zone. A significant part of the resources and energy of UNFICYP operations are currently geared towards addressing that development. Continuing challenges in the buffer zone have the potential to destabilize a still delicate security situation.

30. During the reporting period, UNFICYP authorized 13 civilian construction projects in the buffer zone, including 2 by a Turkish Cypriot family on the Pyla plateau, and the sinking of a well to supply water to both communities in the villages of Astromeritis/Bostanci and Peristerona/Cengizkoy. UNFICYP also engaged both sides in an anti-dumping campaign in conjunction with local authorities and UNDP in response to an increase in the number of illegal waste dumping sites in the buffer zone. However, the trend described in my previous report (S/2006/315) of construction of unauthorized buildings for personal and commercial use and the utilization of land outside the areas designated for civilian use in the buffer zone continued.

31. Of particular note during the reporting period have been farming activities, mainly in the area around Nicosia, by farmers wishing to cultivate land beyond the farming security line established by UNFICYP to prevent tension arising from such activities in the buffer zone. On 3 and 11 October, tension rose as result of disputes on farming and land ownership involving Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot farmers in the buffer zone in the area of Kaimakli, north-east of Nicosia. In response to media reports that Greek Cypriot farmers intended to work beyond the farming security line, the Turkish Forces/Turkish Cypriot Security Forces overmanned their

nearest position in the area. The situation was further aggravated when Greek Cypriot farmers entered the buffer zone and demanded access to the north of the farming security line. After intensive discussions held by UNFICYP with both sides, the situation was defused. Two press statements warning farmers against crossing the farming security line were issued by UNFICYP on 4 and 10 October. On 26 November, Turkish Cypriot farmers in the area of Avlona/Gayretkoy entered the buffer zone without authorization from UNFICYP to cultivate land owned by Greek Cypriots without their permission. When UNFICYP police and military personnel requested them to cease their activities and leave the area until permits were obtained, the farmers attacked the United Nations patrol, damaging six vehicles. UNFICYP strongly protested the incident. In the light of those incidents, UNFICYP tightened its procedures for issuing farming permits in order to safeguard property rights and maintain security in both areas.

32. UNFICYP continued liaising with the two sides, in particular on law enforcement and issues related to crossings. Ten medical evacuations were facilitated from the north, and the remains of four Greek Cypriots were returned for burial in their villages in the northern part of the island. Prison visits and interviews with inmates and relevant officials of detention facilities continued. There are currently 22 Turkish Cypriots detained in the south and 1 Greek Cypriot under custody in the north.

33. During the reporting period, UNFICYP facilitated the exchange of information on criminal matters between the two communities. UNFICYP established closer cooperation with the communities and local municipalities, which has generated a better flow of information and improved the handling of criminal and domestic matters. On two occasions, UNFICYP facilitated the handing over of persons wanted for serious crimes from one side to the other and also enabled a Turkish Cypriot man to provide testimony in a case being investigated in the south. Nevertheless, there is a pressing need to deal with a growing phenomenon of unpunished crimes, some serious, that result from the lack of cooperation between law enforcement agencies on both sides. A rising trend of criminal activity in the buffer zone, in particular human trafficking activities, continue to be reported by both sides. According to information provided by the two sides, fewer persons have been crossing the buffer zone as illegal immigrants, while the number of arrests for human trafficking has increased.

34. A serious incident occurred on 22 November at a private English language school in Nicosia, in which a group of Turkish Cypriot students attending the school were attacked by a group of Greek Cypriot students from outside the school, reportedly wearing partial face masks. A number of the Turkish Cypriot students were injured in the attack. Three persons have been taken into custody over the incident so far, and the Cyprus police are continuing their investigation. The incident was strongly condemned by President Papadopoulous and other leading authorities on both sides of the divide.

35. UNFICYP continued to liaise with both sides on the preservation and restoration of cultural and religious sites on the island. UNFICYP was requested by both communities to facilitate the resolution of issues regarding the desecration and deterioration of sites with cultural and religious significance.

36. UNFICYP continued to coordinate gender-related activities on the island. UNFICYP facilitated separate meetings of the bi-communal Cypriot Women's

Policy Group, which consists of three high-level women representatives from each of the sides, and the bi-communal Anti-Trafficking Group to discuss and address gender issues in Cyprus.

IV. Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus

37. In July, the new member of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus Christophe Girod, officially took up his duties on the island. Following the Committee meeting of 3 July, which was attended by the leaders of both communities, favourable political will has been demonstrated by all concerned with regard to the issue of missing persons in Cyprus.

38. The Committee launched its project on the exhumation, identification and return of the remains of missing persons late in August. Intrinsic to the project is its bi-communal structure. Supported by a small team of international experts, both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot scientists are participating in exhumations and the identification process in the Committee's anthropological laboratory located in the United Nations Protected Area in Nicosia. The final DNA identification phase, due to begin before the end of the year, will be carried out at a local forensic laboratory by another bi-communal team of scientists.

39. The project is currently financed by voluntary contributions from Cypriot and other sources, including Member States. The Committee is continuing its fund-raising efforts.

V. Financial and administrative aspects

40. The General Assembly, by its resolution 60/270 of 30 June 2006, appropriated for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 the amount of $44.8 million gross ($43.0 million net). In this regard, I am grateful for the voluntary contribution of one third of the cost of the Force, equivalent to $14.9 million, by the Government of Cyprus, and the voluntary contribution of $6.5 million by the Government of Greece. Other countries and organizations might wish to do likewise, with a view to reducing the portion of the cost of UNFICYP covered by assessed contributions.

41. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period of six months, the cost of maintaining the Force would be limited to the amount approved by the General Assembly.

42. As at 30 September 2006, the total outstanding assessed contributions to the special account for UNFICYP for the period from 16 June 1993 to 15 December 2006 amounted to $23.5 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at the same date amounted to $2,080.2 million.

43. As at 31 October 2006, amounts owed to troop contributors totalled $6.2 million. As a result of the delay in the receipt of assessed contributions, reimbursement of troop and contingent-owned equipment costs has been made only for the period up to 30 April 2006 and 31 March 2006, respectively.

44. I am concerned at the slow pace of the refurbishment of the troop accommodation at the Ledra Palace Hotel and Camp San Martin, and in this

connection I wish to stress the urgency and importance of speeding up the required repairs in the interest of the health and safety of the mission's troops.

VI. Observations

45. During the reporting period, the situation in Cyprus remained calm and stable with no major violations of the ceasefire lines. Although both opposing forces continued to challenge the existing delineation of the ceasefire lines, the overall cooperation with UNFICYP resulted in a lack of any serious incidents in the buffer zone. I continue to believe that full acceptance by the opposing forces of the 1989 aide-memoire of the United Nations concerning activities in the buffer zone would further improve the situation, and I call on the sides to consider this without delay. In the same spirit, I would encourage a reflection on the various military and other confidence-building measures that have been proposed over the past 18 years, including the withdrawal of troops from the ceasefire lines.

46. In the absence of a comprehensive settlement, the presence of UNFICYP remains necessary in maintaining the ceasefire. In this context, I am concerned about the increasing pressure from the civilian population, particularly the Greek Cypriots, to undertake and expand construction projects in the buffer zone, a trend that could undermine security conditions. I must stress that civilian activities in the area between the ceasefire lines, including farming, cannot take place at the expense of stability and security, for which UNFICYP is responsible. At the same time, the trend towards increased construction on the Turkish Cypriot side is a cause of concern, as it may undermine the achievement of a comprehensive settlement.

47. The steady progress in the clearing of minefields located in the buffer zone is a welcome development. More than 50 per cent of mines have been cleared and destroyed, while the rest should be removed within two years. The success of this operation is due to the good cooperation of the opposing forces with the United Nations and the generous funding from the European Union.

48. Significant progress has been achieved during the reporting period on the issue of missing persons. With the assistance of the new third member of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, both sides have managed to advance in the exhumation and identification process in the newly established anthropological laboratory. This is an example of a commendable effort by Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot scientists, with the support of international donors. I applaud both sides for their constructive approach to this humanitarian issue and urge them to make progress in the same spirit in other areas of common interest.

49. I must express my concern at the continuing implementation — and in some cases strengthening — of policies that are against the spirit and the letter of the 8 July agreement, by which both sides made a commitment to ensure that the right atmosphere prevails on the island. I also note with concern the criticism and hampering of the United Nations, and particularly of UNDP activities intended to reduce the socio-economic disparities between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities. The obstruction of development and bi-communal activities undermines and marginalizes segments of society and makes it difficult for groups and individuals to contribute to the peace process and the building of trust across divisions. The nurturing of a culture of prejudice and the ensuing lack of trust

hampers any constructive efforts towards reaching a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem.

50. Having dealt with the Cyprus issue for 10 years, I cannot but regret the continued stalemate in the political process and the missed opportunities. Despite a decade of almost continuous efforts by the United Nations, an agreement on a comprehensive settlement has not proved possible.

51. At this juncture, it is important, as indicated by the Security Council, that the implementation of the 8 July agreement begin without further delay. The process should lead to a resumption of full-fledged political talks within the framework of the mission of good offices. In this connection, it should be noted that only if progress is achieved will my successor or I be in a position to appoint a special adviser on Cyprus.

52. The continued active involvement of the international community in Cyprus, through the presence of UNFICYP, should not be taken for granted. In this context, both leaders may wish to refocus and redouble their efforts. It should be emphasized, as indicated in my report of May 2004, that the responsibility lies primarily with the Cypriots themselves. The United Nations remains committed to lending a helping hand, but it is no substitute for genuine political will on the part of all concerned to reach a comprehensive settlement.

53. In the absence of a comprehensive settlement, I believe that UNFICYP continues to play a vital role, and I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Force by a further period of six months, until 15 June 2007.

54. In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to my Special Representative and Chief of Mission, Michael Møller, the Force Commander, Major General Rafael Barni, and the men and women serving in UNFICYP, for the efficiency and dedication with which they have discharged the responsibilities entrusted to them by the Security Council.

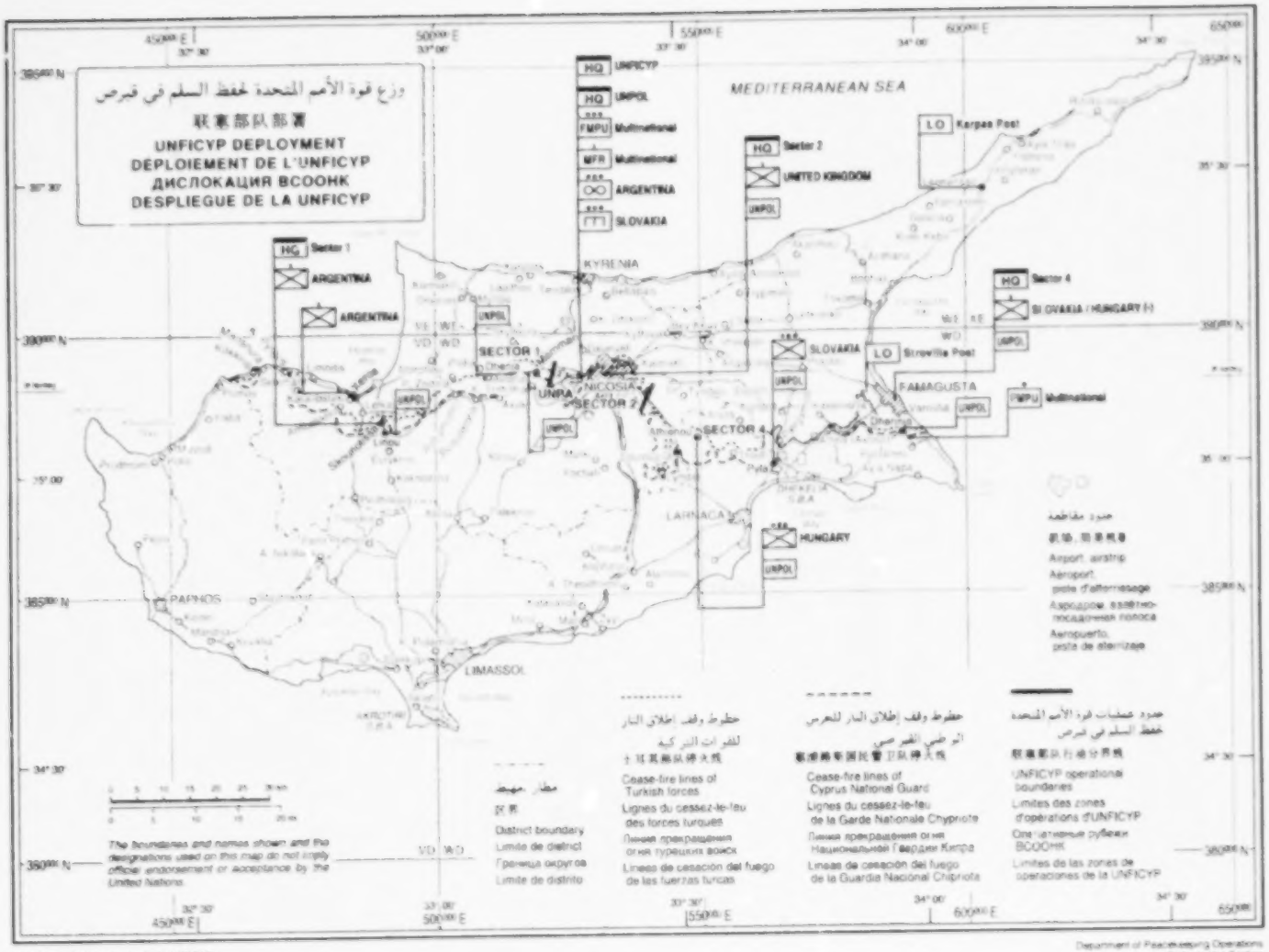
Annex

Countries providing military and civilian police personnel as at 15 November 2006

Country	*Military personnel*
Argentina[a]	295
Austria	4
Canada	1
Hungary	84
Slovakia[b]	200
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	269
Total	**853**

	United Nations police
Argentina	4
Australia	15
Croatia	1
El Salvador	7
India	5
Italy	4
Ireland	18
Netherlands	6
Total	**60**

[a] The Argentine contingent includes soldiers from Chile (15), Paraguay (14) and Peru (14).
[b] The Slovak contingent includes soldiers from Croatia (4).



Map No. 2930 Rev. 61 UNITED NATIONS
November 2006

Department of Peacekeeping Operations
Cartographic Section

S 20006-931

(06-61002)